Report on mid-air collision between Saudi Jumbo and Kazakh Airlines plane

1397. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received report on the mid-air collision between Saudi Jumbo and Kazakh Airlines plane on 12 November, 1996 near Charkhi Dadri;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government held reponsible to Kazakh crew for crash;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Kazakhistan Government to bear all expenditure of investigation, compensation etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The report is under examination of the Government.

Replacing the radar system at Indira Gandhi International Airport

1398. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press report appeared in the Indian Express dated the 27th May, 1997 under the caption "New Radar blips out again at I.G.I. Airport;"

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in replacing the radar system with a latest developed technology as the existing one has become obsolete and outdated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. System Site Acceptance test of the integrated radar system was held at I.G.I. Airport during the last week of May, 1997. During this testing, false echoes were observed on the Primary Radars. These observations have been recorded and the process of optimisation of radars is in progress.

(c) The existing Primary Radar at IGI airport with 60 nautical miles range is operational and in good condition. This is being replaced by the state-of-the art Primary and Secondary Radars along with Automated equipment for better surveillance of air traffic.

Proposal to upgrade the Vizag Airport to an international standard

1399. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to upgrade the present airport in Vizag to an international standard; and

(b) if so, the details of such a proposal, including the time frame by which such upgradation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Domestic air passengers

1400. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic air passenger traffic has been on the decline;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of decline in the air passenger traffic during

1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and in the comparative earnings during these years;

(c) what are the main causes identified for the decline in the air passenger traffic; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The position is as under:-

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Passengers carried (lakhs) (Indian Air lines + Pvt. Air lines	108.8	120.3	118.7
Revenue earnings of Indian Airlines from passenger traffic (Rs. crores)*	1672.13	2019.51	2216.00

*Figures for private airlines are not available.

(c) The comparative stagnation in growth in passenger traffic is attributable to the collapse of several private airline companies.

(d) A committee has been set up to look into the reasons for sickness in the airline industry. Several proposals like rationalisation of price of aviation turbine fuel, abolition of sales tax on ATF, exemption of leasing amounts from income tax etc. are being considered by the Government.

Private and foreign air taxi services in Punjab

1401. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and foreign air taxi services in operation at present in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that no air taxi is operating regularly for Amritsar, Jalandhar, Chandigarh and Ludhiana;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A list of Private Indian Operators operating in the country is given in the statement (see below). There is no foreign air operator providing domestic air transport services in India.

(b) to (d) M/s Alliance Air is operating 3 days-a-week services to Amritsar and Chandigarh. M/s Archana Airways would commence 3 days-a-week service to Chandigarh from 11th August, 1997 and daily service to Ludhiana from 22nd August, 1997.

Operation of air service to a particular station is provided by the operators depending on the commercial viability and subject to laid down route dispersal guidelines.

Statement

Names of Private Scheduled /AIR TAXI Operators

A. SCHEDULED OPERATOR

1. Archana Airwarys
2. East West Airlines
3. Jet Airways
4. Modiluft
5. NEPC Airlines
6. Sahara India Airlines
7. Skyline - NEPC (Formerly Damania Airways)